Cave Survey Synopsis

January 17, 24, and 31, 2013

Team members on 1/17/13:

Kelly Mathis (trip leader)

Tyler Devine

Jessica Reese

Adam Weaver

Team members on 1/24/13:

Kelly Mathis (trip leader)

Tyler Devine

Jessica Reese

Team members on 1/31/13:

Kelly Mathis (trip leader)

Tyler Devine

Jessica Reese

MaryBeth Wells

These short trips to the G survey were part of the leader's ongoing effort to complete the remaining survey work in an area bounded by the "Hub Loop" caving route.

On January 17, the team went to a part of the G survey that hadn't been visited since Herb and Jan Conn, the pioneer Jewel Cave explorers, surveyed the passage in the 1960s. Unfortunately for the team, the Conns had been quite thorough, and not much was left to do. They mapped a few short un-surveyed passages, but several leads shown on the map would have to wait for another trip. They were high in the ceiling of the passage, and would require rope work to access, so the team could only look up and wonder. They were still able to survey an additional 159.45 feet of cave, on a trip that lasted 5 hours.

The trip on January 24 went to another part of the G survey, which is above the passages that had been visited the week before. By thoroughly check-ing this high area, the team thought it might be pos-sible to connect into the unclimbable leads from the previous trip.

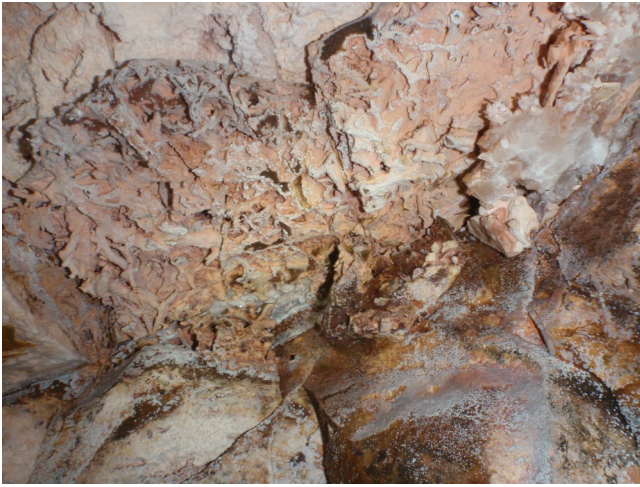The first leads weren't extensive, but were enough to keep them busy for the entire evening. Unfortu-nately, however, the passages didn't connect with the climbing leads. 268.65 feet of new cave was mapped on this 5-hour trip, with more remaining to entice a return visit.

Adam Weaver below one of the unclimbable leads on the G survey.
NPS Photo

On January 31, a team returned to the G survey. This time, they surveyed 288.70 feet, and found some unusual chert "fingers" in one of the leads.

The current length of Jewel Cave is 164.51 miles.

Chert fingers. **NPS Photo**

Calcite rafts, evidence of an ancient pool of water. **NPS Photo**

New Jewel Cave Survey

— January 17
— January 24
— January 31

Elevator

Scenic Tour Route